

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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LAWRENCE TOWNSEND,

Plaintiff,

v.

BARRETT, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-01813-APG-BNW

ORDER

On November 6, 2023, pro se plaintiff Lawrence Townsend, an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections, submitted a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and applied to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1, 1-1). Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is incomplete because Plaintiff did not submit a completed financial certificate on this Court's approved form and did not include an inmate trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period. The Court will deny Plaintiff's application without prejudice and give Plaintiff the opportunity to correct these deficiencies by **January 5, 2024**.

I. DISCUSSION

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada must collect filing fees from parties initiating civil actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The fee for filing a civil-rights action is \$402, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(b). "Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*." Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-1. For an inmate to apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the following documents to the Court: (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the Court's approved form, that is properly signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed **Financial Certificate**, which is page 4 of the Court's approved form, that is properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate's prison or jail trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period**. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1)–(2);

1 Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her
2 obligation to pay the filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments. *See*
3 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

4 As explained above, Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is incomplete.
5 The Court will therefore deny Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* without
6 prejudice and grant Plaintiff an extension of time to either pay the filing fee or file a new fully
7 complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three required documents.

8 **II. CONCLUSION**

9 It is therefore ordered that the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is
10 denied without prejudice.

11 It is further ordered that Plaintiff has **until January 5, 2024**, to either pay the full \$402
12 filing fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three
13 required documents: (1) a completed application with the inmate's two signatures on page 3,
14 (2) a completed financial certificate that is signed both by the inmate and the prison or jail
15 official, and (3) a copy of the inmate's trust fund account statement for the previous six-month
16 period.

17 Plaintiff is cautioned that this action will be subject to dismissal without prejudice if
18 Plaintiff fails to timely comply with this order. A dismissal without prejudice allows Plaintiff to
19 refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when Plaintiff can file a complete
20 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the required filing fee.

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1 The Clerk of the Court is directed to send Plaintiff the approved form application to
2 proceed *in forma pauperis* for an inmate and instructions for the same and retain the complaint
3 (ECF No. 1) but not file it at this time.

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5 DATED this 8th day of November 2023.

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8 BREND A WEKSLER
9 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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